

JUNE 30, 1999

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For Immediate Release

LOUISIANA CROP ACREAGE

Corn and soybean acreage in Louisiana will decrease from last year according to Dave Frank, State Statistician for the Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service. Conversely, rice, cotton, sorghum, and sugarcane acreage will increase from 1998.

CORN acreage, at 430,000 acres, is down 270,000 acres from 1998, and down 70,000 acres from the March 1 estimate.

COTTON acreage is expected to rebound to 570,000 acres, up 35,000 from last year. This is unchanged from the March 1 estimate.

RICE acreage, at 650,000 acres, is up 25,000 acres from 1998, but down 30,000 acres from the March 1 intentions. Of this total, long grain varieties will represent 605,000 acres or 93 percent, while medium grain varieties will represent the remaining 45,000 acres or 7percent.

GRAIN SORGHUM acreage, at 260,000 acres, is up 130,000 acres from 1998, but down 10,000 from the March 1 estimate. This will be highest since 1986 when 370,000 acres were planted.

SOYBEAN acreage is expected to total 1,050,000 acres, 150,000 fewer acres than last year, but up 50,000 from the March 1 estimate. If realized this will be the lowest acreage in the state in 33 years.

SWEET POTATO acreage is expected to total 22,000, up 1,000 acres from both the March 1 estimate, and last year.

WINTER WHEAT producers planted an estimated 120,000 acres in the fall of 1998. This is up 20,000 acres from the previous year, but unchanged from March 1 estimate. Harvested acreage is set at 110,000, up 20,000 acres from 1998.

HAY harvested acres are projected at 360,000, up 30,000 from last year, and up 60,000 from the March 1 intentions.

SUGARCANE acreage for harvest is estimated at 450,000, up 15,000 from last year. If realized this will be the highest acreage ever recorded in the State. Louisiana now moves ahead of Florida to become the number one State in the United States for sugarcane planted acreage.

JUNE 1, 1999 PLANTED ACREAGE

CROP	LOUISIANA			UNITED STATES		
	1998	1999	% Change	1998	1999	% Change
	Thousand Acres			Thousand Acres		
Corn	700	430	-39	80,187	77,611	-3
Upland Cotton	535	570	+7	13,064.3	14,241.0	+9
Rice	625	650	+4	3,345	3,600	+8
Sorghum	130	260	+100	9,626	9,049	-6
Soybeans	1,200	1,050	-13	72,375	74,205	+3
Sweet potatoes	21	22	+5	87.2	88.1	+1
Winter Wheat	100	120	+20	46,449	43,419	-7
Hay 1/	330	360	+9	60,016	61,951	+3
Sugarcane 1/	435	450	+3	947.1	963.5	+2

1/ harvested acres.

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